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Volume 32 | Number 7

Article 8

1952

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Recommended Citation

Frahm, Ardella (1952) "No More Mildew-," *The Iowa Homemaker*: Vol. 32 : No. 7 , Article 8.

Available at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol32/iss7/8>

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No More Mildew—

by Ardella Frabm

Technical Journalism Junior

Mildewed garments can be a problem and a mighty expensive one! Progress today in mildew-proofing is providing you with some answers to this problem.

A method of mildew-proofing is by use of chemicals. Recently a treatment for all fabrics to make them highly resistant to mildew and rot has been developed. A chemical, copper-8-quinolinolate, does the trick. This chemical is bonded to the textile fiber with a resin. The compound destroys any organisms that promote mildew.

Protection almost permanent

The chemical has many desirable properties. It is poisonous to lower animals but not to higher ones. Application of this chemical gives an almost permanent mildew-proofing. Protection of this chemically treated fabric is gradually lost upon repeated launderings. But even after 25 launderings, its resistance to rot and mildew attack is far superior to that of untreated fabrics.

A physical barrier such as a wax emulsion between the fiber and the mildew is another method of mildew proofing. This emulsion is composed of minute wax

particles suspended in a aluminum salt solution. It can be conveniently added to the rinse water of your wash to provide an easy and economical means of preventing mildew.

In addition, the wax emulsion contributes much to the fabrics treated by it. These fabrics automatically become water resistant, do not spot easily, retain the press longer, and are less likely to wrinkle because the water does not adhere to the cloth.

Because the emulsion does not fill the spaces between the fibers, the clothing retains its porous qualities. ~~You~~ Summer clothing would remain ventilated and cool. Neither does the fabric become stiff from the treatment. ~~If anything, the fabric becomes~~ softer to the touch. The color or appearance of the fabric is not altered in any way.

Surface treatment practical

Since organisms do act only at the point of contact, surface treatment of the fabric is practical. This explains the protection given by the previously mentioned process. Mildew clothing need no longer be in your possession with all of these solutions to the problem.

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